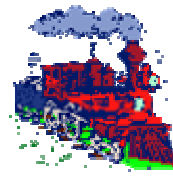


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Special Issue in Remembrance of Chester Hughes

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It has been a difficult year in the Records Management Division.

It has been a year of uncertainty, a year of change, a year of great sorrow as our Director, Chester Hughes, fell ill, received treatment and eventually succumbed to a brain tumor on December 18, 2004. He began

his career with the State of Tennessee in 1984 as an analyst and records manager before his promotion to Director in 1994. He worked diligently to provide quality services to his customers within state government while always mindful to reduce cost wherever possible. He was a graduate of the 1996 Tennessee Government Executive Institute.



At the time of his death, Chester served as a member of the Nashville Metro Council and was an active member of the Nashville Music City Chapter of the Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA). He had previously served as president of the chapter, as well as serving on the Board of Directors. He also served as chair of the Programs and Legislative committees, and was recognized as the 1999-2000 Chapter Member of the Year.

Chester was a veteran of the US Army, and served in Vietnam. He received a bachelor's in Business Administration from the University of Memphis. He was a member of the Victory Church in Nashville and

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served on the Board of Directors for Victory Empowerment Center. Chester is survived by his wife, Helen, and his children, Jameel and LaTia Hughes and his grandson.

While these are the facts about Chester Hughes, I would like to share the following which are some memories of the man, the friend, the boss from several people who worked with Chester through the years:

My first encounter with Chester was during an interview for a Records Analyst 3 position. He was the Records Manager at the time and ever the professional, straight forward questions with a stern look. He gave me a tour of the Records Center and during a quiet moment, advised me to negotiate my salary. His advice: "determine your worth based on your experience, skills and education. Request a salary you can live with." At a time when I needed employment, his advice was a shot of encouragement. I got the job and at the salary I had requested.

I miss Chester's whistling as he came down the hall. You could tell he was in a good mood cause he'd be whistling loud and clear. He was pretty good and in tune. Sometimes, he'd come in the building singing "Ol' Man River" in a deep, deep voice or the "Star Spangled Banner" which was always off-key and the words weren't quite right.

Chester loved to debate and he loved to debate about most any topic. He had an inquisitive mind and loved to share his opinion when it came to politics, car repairs, biblical topics, how to keep weeds out of your lawn, anything. Rarely, could you get the upper hand but when you did, he'd turn quickly and march back to his office.

Through the years, I learned that Chester was proud of his many roles as husband, father, son, neighbor, friend, boss and councilman. He worked long, hard hours to win the Metro Nashville Council seat from the 3rd District. The night he won, friends and family gathered to congratulate a tearful, exuberant Chester. I often regret that the news media did not hear his acceptance speech because it was excellent, compassionate and encouraging. While I cannot remember it exactly, I do recall Chester commenting that his winning should be an example to all, that we can all rise to any occasion no matter the circumstance, no matter where we come from. We should take risk, we should step out of our comfort zone to do what seems impossible.

That was Chester Hughes.

By Donna Bridges



In recognition of Chester's twenty years of service to the State of Tennessee. March 2004



Dept. of General Services Commissioner Gwendolyn Sims Davis, Chester Hughes and former Assistant Commissioner Dennis Johnson.

Meet the New Records Management Director



Donna Bridges is the new Director for the Records Management Division in the State of Tennessee. Appointed at the end of February 2005, Donna has over 25 years experience in the records management profession. She took over from Chester Hughes who died in December 2004 after a short illness.

After college, Donna lived in Denver, Colorado for three years while beginning her records management experience. Upon returning to Tennessee, she would spend the next twelve years further expanding her knowledge of records management while working at such companies as First

American Trust Company, American Express, and Socks Galore & More. She joined the Records Management Division as a Records Analyst in May 1994. Six months later she was promoted to Records Manager. In December 2002, she was promoted to the Assistant Director position.

"There is never a dull moment in this job" says Donna in response to a question about her first month on the job as Director. First, there is the division's recent Records Management Application (Foremost) acquisition which she is trying to finalize. Then she has to keep track of what's going on in the State Records Center which has a capacity of about 100,000 cubic feet of records. There are staff reviews to pursue, meetings with managers and supervisors, reports to review, that financial statement from OFM, phone calls to respond to, and of course meetings with the Commissioner and her staff every so often."

Donna is keen on establishing the Records Management Division's ability to handle electronic records: "We are seeking ways to make this possible and I anticipate that we will work with the State Library and Archives as well as OIR to achieve this goal." She adds that "a new state-of-

the-art facility is critical, desirable and long overdue. The Public Records Commission has long supported the initiative but funding has been an issue. This is important to the state as we strive to manage the state's records more efficiently and effectively."

By Thomas Oduor

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Meet the New Assistant Director



Thomas Oduor was promoted to Records Management Assistant Director in April 2005. Thomas is originally from Kenya, in East Africa, and has lived in Lebanon, Tennessee for the last eleven years. He is a graduate of both Cumberland University in Lebanon and Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. He is currently seeking the Certified Records Manager (CRM) certification from the Institute of Certified Records Managers, and is an adjunct faculty, College of Business, Tennessee State University.

Before coming to the Records Management Division, he worked for the Campbell Group in Mt. Juliet where his last position was a Quality Systems Specialist, responsible for ISO 9001 documentation and audits. He hopes to add value to the division by

leveraging his growing knowledge of information systems to enhance information availability and tracking.

He joined the Records Management Division as a Records Analyst in December 2000. He was promoted to Records Manager in December 2002.

He is a Christian and seeks to glorify God by excelling in his work as well as in higher education. He and his wife, Teresa, have four teenagers; two boys and two girls between the ages of thirteen and eighteen. Thomas is involved in the lives of Kenyans living in the U.S. and serves as the President of the Kenya Christian Fellowship in America, Nashville Chapter.

By Donna Bridges



Welcome Back to RMD

Deneen McNeil is a Clerk 3. She has been working for the State of Tennessee for four years, initially with RMD and then Property Services Management Division. Her duties include indexing, disposals and other office duties. Deneen likes spending time with her family and various other interests.

We are proud to welcome Deneen back to the Records Management Division. She will be an asset to the overall functions of Records Management.

Ricky Hudson is a Storekeeper 1. He left the State of Tennessee in 1999 to pursue other career paths. He decided to return because of the benefits. Ricky likes weight-lifting and working as a personal trainer.

We are happy that Ricky decided to return to the Records Management Division. He is a valuable member to the team.

By Alice Drummond

New RMD Employees



Andrea Milele

The Records Management Division is pleased to announce the appointment of Andrea Milele to the position of Clerk 3. Ms. Milele has ten years of customer service and six years of office experience in the private sector. Andrea enjoys working out and spending time with her son, Mitchel.

Her duties include receptionist, charge in and charge out of records, time-keeping, and other office duties. Her future plans are to pursue career opportunities with state government.

Andrea's pleasing personality and positive attitude have proven to be a valuable asset to the overall operation of the Division of Records Management.

By Alice Drummond



Scott Davenport

The Records Management Division is pleased to welcome Scott Davenport. Mr. Davenport is a Storekeeper 1. He has 17 years of supervisory experience, including inventory management, and warehouse operations. Scott's hobbies are coaching baseball and playing golf. He is a single father of three children, Chastity, Scotty, and Chris.

Scott's future plans are to advance his career opportunity in the State of Tennessee. Scott is a welcome addition to the Records Management Division and his invaluable experience will benefit the overall operation of Records Management.

By Alice Drummond



John Birkner

John Birkner joined the Records Management Division (RMD), Department of General Services as an ASA3 and is our Publications Coordinator for the State of Tennessee. He began his state service in September 2004.

Prior to joining the RMD, Mr. Birkner retired from the United States Army after serving thirty years on active duty achieving the rank of Chief Warrant Officer Five. He served in numerous operational and staff positions, culminating with retirement as the Senior Maintenance Technician for the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY. He is married to wife Dianne, with four children and six grandchildren.

We have enjoyed John's strong work ethic and ability to win the cooperation of his customers. We will miss him as he will transfer to the Department of Health in May as an ASA4. Congratulations and good luck!!! By Donna Bridges